

MISSION TRAIL ATHLETIC LEAGUE

# Stevenson: Outlook far from bleak

The Pirates of the Caribbean may be getting all the attention, but the Pirates of Pebble Beach hope to attract a little notoriety of their own as well.

When Stevenson coach Germano Diniz says he wants to get away from what the Pirates have done in the past, he's talking more about the offense than anything else.

In other words, shiver me timbers, the Pirates are hoping to find gold in them thar hills.

But if there's one thing the Pirates truly hope to do differently this year it's avoid the rash of injuries that have plagued this team the past few years.

"We haven't been able to keep a quarterback healthy since I've been here," Diniz said.

Diniz is starting his fourth year as coach.

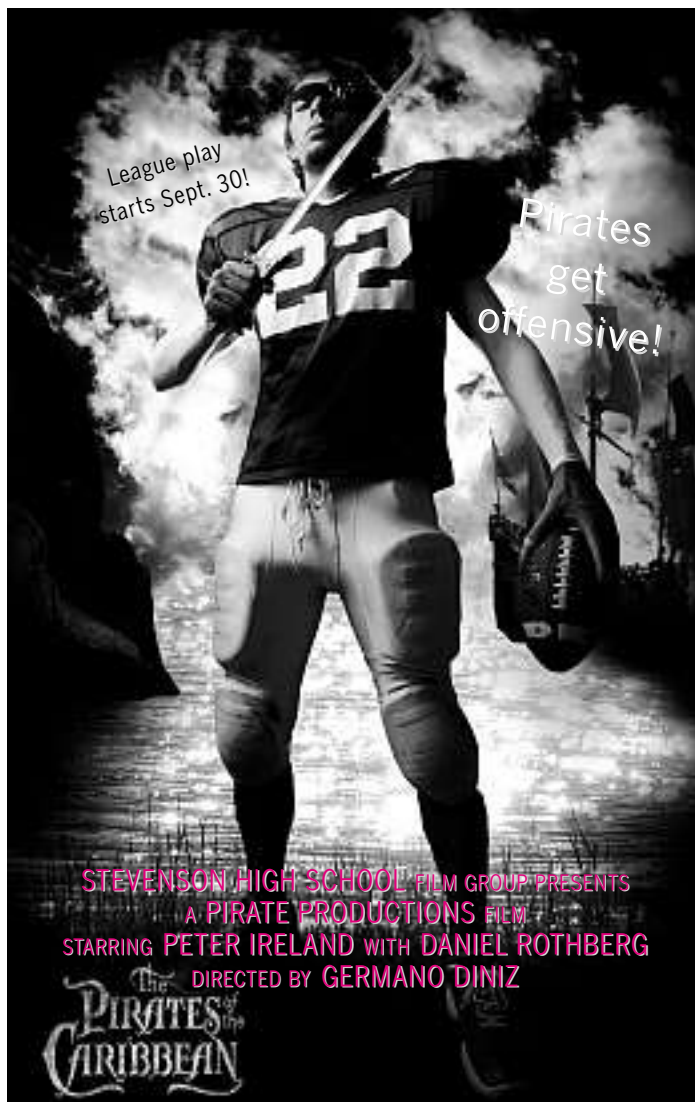
This season is the first that he has two quarterbacks who played in the Stevenson system last year.

Cooper Kehoe started the season last year but lasted only three games before being felled by a season-ending injury.

William Perocchi was the JV quarterback last year who is expected to start the season as the backup.

"We're going to get away from what we've done in the past," Diniz said. "We've changed our offense. We've opened it up. We should be able to throw better this year." Aye, aye captain.

It didn't hurt that Stevenson was able to pull a few strings and get the Fresno State football coaching staff a tee time



STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS  
A PIRATE PRODUCTIONS FILM  
STARRING PETER IRELAND WITH DANIEL ROTHBERG  
DIRECTED BY GERMANO DINIZ

at Pebble Beach.

The Bulldog staff reciprocated by staging a passing clinic for the Pirate coaches. In addition, Diniz attended a coaches' clinic in South Bend, Ind., home of the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, during the summer.

Along with an improved passing game, the Pirates have

reason to believe they'll have a stronger rushing game as well.

They return their leading scoring rusher in Peter Ireland, who ran for 384 yards and five touchdowns.

Bolstering the ground game is the return of two victims of the RLS injury curse — Charlie Moffett and Taylor Gilbert.



A PIRATES PRODUCTION

**WATKINS WRAP:** RLS may need a few overachievers to make a serious impact. ☆☆☆

Selected showtimes

- Sept. 9: At St. Elizabeth (Oakland), 2
- Sept. 16: At Monte Vista Christian, 2
- Sept. 23: Harbor, 2
- Sept. 30: Gonzales, 2
- Oct. 7: Soledad, 2
- Oct. 13: At Greenfield, 7:30
- Oct. 21: Carmel, 2
- Oct. 27: At Pacific Grove, 7:30
- Nov. 3: At King City, 7:30
- Nov. 11: St. Francis, 2



# Soledad: Still in the prime of youth

Maybe a fresh start is just what the Soledad High football team needs.

"There's no tradition here," first-year coach Ryan Bravo said. "We need to put discipline, commitment and pride in the program."

Even though Soledad has been playing football since 1999, it'll be like starting from ground zero this year.

"We have a new system, new coaches and new expectations," Bravo, a 1991 graduate of King City High, said. "We're going to take the bull by the horns and do things the right way."

There may be hope if the Aztecs group together and become a team of close friends seeking an adventure.

If so, Bravo will probably be the first to say, "Stand by me."

Bravo talks as if he's willing to take full responsibility of the Soledad football program.

"I want to put my stamp on it," he said.

The Aztecs have struggled mightily to regain the form of what was a promising beginning to the school's football program.

In just their second year of football Soledad went 7-3.

But the last three years have been jarring.

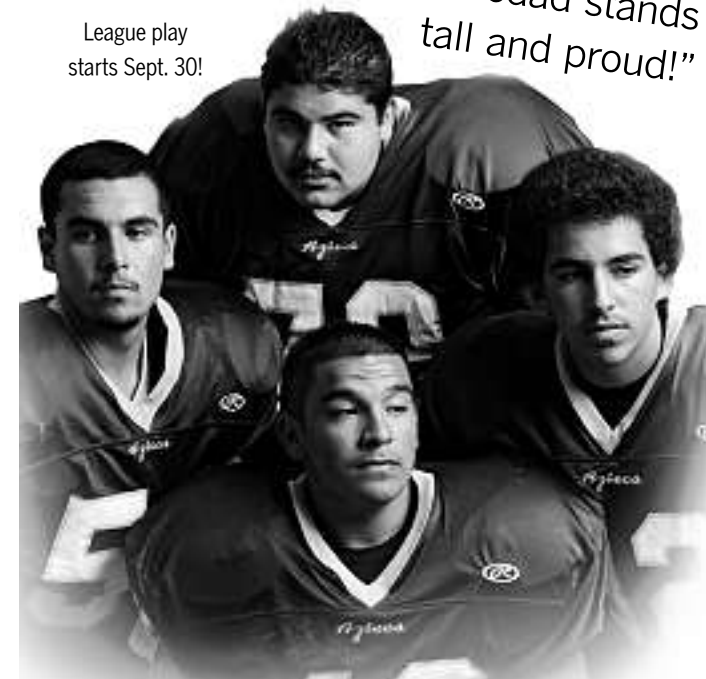
Since 2003 Soledad has the fewest wins of any team in the Southern Zone Section (MTAL, MBL, T-CAL, SCCAL) with three — one in each of the last three years.

Just as puzzling has been its lack of success in the MTAL, where last year the Aztecs ended a 14-game league losing streak. That followed a nightmarish three-game stretch where they allowed 50 or more

# STAND BY ME

League play starts Sept. 30!

Soledad stands tall and proud!"



SOLEDAD HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS  
AN AZTECS PRODUCTIONS FILM  
STARRING DIEGO TRUJILLO WITH DAVID LOPEZ  
DIRECTED BY RYAN BRAVO

points.

Undaunted, Bravo eagerly accepts the challenge of rebuilding the football program.

"This is something I've wanted to get into," he said.

About 14 players return from last year's team, but only one earned any sort of all-league status.

David Lopez, a 6-6, 340-pound lineman, was a second-team all-league selection last year.

What success Soledad experienced last year came from

the nearly 1,400 passing yards, but it'll be a different offense this year.

"We're changing the scheme," Bravo said. "We're going to be run oriented with the wing-T."

Fortunately for the Aztecs they return leading rushing Diego Trujillo, who gained nearly 500 yards last year.

Marc Villanueva is one of two players vying for the starting quarterback spot.

Bolstering Soledad's line will be Frank Flores and Jacob Rivera.

AN AZTECS PRODUCTION

**WATKINS WRAP:** Aztecs to face growing pains. ☆☆☆

Selected showtimes

- Sept. 8: Vacaville Christian, 7:30
- Sept. 15: St. Francis of Watsonville, 7:30
- Sept. 23: At Pajaro Valley (Watsonville High), 7:30
- Sept. 30: Carmel, 7:30
- Oct. 7: At Stevenson, 2
- Oct. 13: Pacific Grove, 7:30
- Oct. 20: Gonzales, 7:30
- Oct. 27: At King City, 7:30
- Nov. 4: Harker of San Jose, 7:30
- Nov. 9: Greenfield, 7:30